



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
EDITION 1 - AUTUMN 2021



SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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DID YOU KNOW?

The day you join the Royal Regiment of Scotland you become a life-long member of the Association.

The SCOTS Association exists to provide a lifetime of belonging and support to our serving members and our veterans. It aims to foster and promote esprit de corps, comradeship and Regimental interest amongst serving, and former soldiers of the Regiment of all ranks, including the Reserves and Army Cadet Force units of or associated with the Regiment. It maintains the link between the Regiment, our wider family and our communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

The Chief of the General Staff recently briefed on the Integrated Review (IR) and the considerable change to the Army as it transforms to meet the challenges of the future. I can tell you with confidence that The Royal Regiment of Scotland will continue to offer exciting and fulfilling opportunities.

The establishment of the Ranger Regiment will see 1 SCOTS take their place in this new Tier 2 force. This is a positive step for the Battalion, offering a new and demanding role. This coupled with the operational drumbeat of our other Battalions means the Regiment will continue to offer our people the challenges that we thrive on. In the Autumn the Army will issue orders detailing the future roles, structures, operational commitments and basing for our Regiment; change is inevitable.

The Regimental Council has conducted a thorough strategy review based on the IR and surveys offered to all in the Regimental family. Our revised strategy will be focussed firmly on the future whilst protecting our links to our proud heritage. It will ensure we can react to the orders for change; uphold the high standard to which our Regiment performs; and ensure we maintain our position at the forefront of the UK Defence.

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3 SCOTS LEAVE KABUL

IN JULY, 3 SCOTS RETURNED FROM THEIR NATO SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN KABUL WITH THEIR CO, LT COL GRAHAM SEFTON BECOMING THE LAST BRITISH ARMY OFFICER TO COMMAND IN AFGHANISTAN.

Forming the Kabul Protection Unit, part of the Kabul Security Force, around 250 troops from 3 SCOTS were based in the capital. They were providing force protection, a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and an incident management function, in addition to returning kit and equipment to the UK. The QMs department were responsible for organising and packing up equipment that had accumulated over the 20 years the British Army had been in Afghanistan.

The unit started the tour with troops in the New Kabul Compound, and some in Headquarters Resolute Support, with the remainder stationed in Hamid Karzai International Airport. Working with their US counterparts, 3 SCOTS were initially responsible for closing the New Kabul Compound and handing it over to the Afghan security forces. On the 18th June, they left HQ Resolute Support, leaving the remaining troops on duty in the airport.

The British troops worked with soldiers from all over the world on the NATO part of the mission; from as far afield as Denmark or Mongolia (despite Mongolia not being part of NATO, they provided guard troops for one the areas), with the CO describing it as an 'international effort'. Col Graham praised the efforts of his Battalion who performed admirably against an uncertain and ever changing political and operational environment.



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HANDOVER AS COMMANDER 51ST INFANTRY BRIGADE AND HEADQUARTERS SCOTLAND

Brigadier Ben Wrench assumed Command of 51st Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Scotland from Brigadier Robin Lindsay which marked the fourth handover takeover both SCOTS officers have conducted with each other during their careers.

They previously served with the Black Watch and in 1997 Brigadier Ben handed over the Mortar Platoon and in 1999 the role of Adjutant. Brigadier Ben then handed over the role of the Highland representative at RMAS to Brigadier Robin in 2001.

ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT

RHQ SCOTS, led by SO2 Veterans and Cadets are aiming to develop:

- A fully engaged, active and vibrant SCOTS Association that creates a sense of continued belonging to the Regiment by our veterans.
- A SCOTS Association supported by the Regiment, who is willing and capable of supporting the Regiment.
- A SCOTS Association promoted and supported by our antecedent Associations.

There are currently three branches, Highlands and Islands, West of Scotland and Lothians run by branch office bearers based in Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh respectively. Our aim is to establish more branches as we identify "areas" where our veterans have settled and we are actively seeking veterans to establish branches in the Grampians, Perthshire, Tayside, Dumfries, the Borders, London and Fiji. RHQ will support the establishing of branches with the necessary guidance and funding and volunteers are asked to contact SO2 Veterans and Cadets at RHQ.



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DONATION TO THE SCOTS ASSOCIATION

Lt Col Doug Watson is a former Regular officer who now serves with the Reserves. He was selected for command and will assume the appointment of CO 7 SCOTS in 2022. On leaving the Regular Army he joined BlackRock Investments in Edinburgh but recently left to start a new career in forestry management.

BlackRock award cash to certain employees who have made a difference to Diversity and Inclusion within their company. Since 2018 Doug led the Veterans Network and recruited 14 veterans into a variety of BlackRock roles. Doug was awarded £4K by BlackRock for his excellent work to donate to a charity of his choice.

Doug choose to donate his award to the SCOTS Regimental Trust to support the efforts to establish a vibrant SCOTS Association and to identify and engage with the Regiment's many veterans with a view to providing them with a lifetime of support. His generous donation will do much to support this important task.



THE GRANT BROTHERS

For the first time since the formation of the Regiment there has never been a brother combination to hold the appointment of Pipe Major and Drum Major at the same time. Colour Sergeant Peter and Sergeant Ruaridh Grant from Braemar, proudly lead the Pipes and Drums of 4 SCOTS at the pass out parade of the Guards at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. Although Pipe Major Grant is well established in his appointment, this is the first time since Sergeant Grant took up the role of Drum Major with 4 SCOTS that they had the opportunity to perform together.

The brothers attended Aboyne Academy, Aberdeenshire, before enlisting into the Army in 2005 and 2010 respectively. Although they are both highly competent and qualified pipers and drummers, they are also trained assault pioneers and infantry soldiers who have separately had the opportunity to tour and serve in Canada, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, USA, Russia, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In April this year Pipe Major Peter Grant had the honour of being the lone Piper at the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, Royal Colonel of 4 SCOTS. This performance was broadcast to nine million people worldwide and was the only solo musician event of the ceremony.



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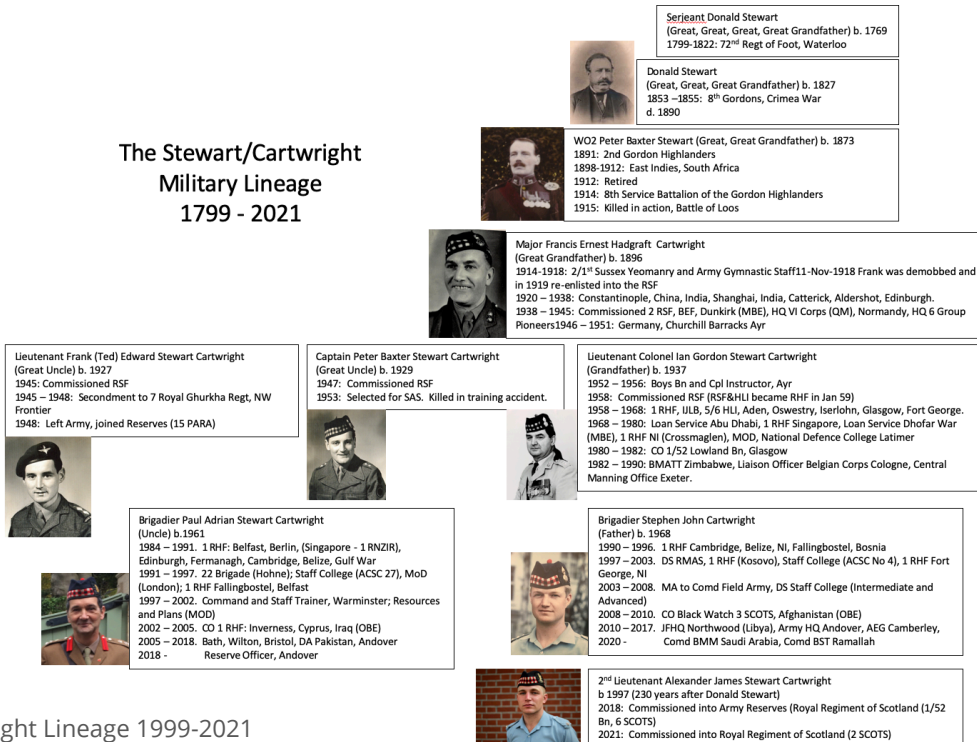
220 YEARS OF CARTWRIGHT / STEWART LINEAGE

Following a long and prestige line, 2Lt Alexander Cartwright commissioned into the Regiment at the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst on Friday 6th August 2021. He is now the 7th generation from his family to join the Scottish Infantry without interruption – starting in 1799 and Waterloo. Alexander will join 2 SCOTS on the successful completion of his Platoon Commanders Battle Course.



2Lt Cartwright is pictured with his father Brigadier Stephen Cartwright.

The Stewart/Cartwright Military Lineage 1799 - 2021



Stewart/Cartwright Lineage 1999-2021



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EXERCISE COSSACK MACE

Soldiers from 4 SCOTS took part in a series of testing exercise scenarios that focused on their infantry skills and co-operation with friendly militaries whilst in Ukraine

Following initial low-level infantry skills and trades the exercise moved onto a larger scale to develop higher level co-ordination and allied activity. Both nations were able to practice their skills in the field and develop their high-quality capabilities. Both sides also had the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures.





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ALAMEIN'S 100-YEAR-OLD HERO

Retired Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Charlie A Cameron MC TD, one of the last surviving soldiers from the Battle of El Alamein visited 7 SCOTS. Col Charlie served with the 2nd Bn Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders as a TA Officer pre-WW2. As a 21 year-old he was sent to be a Company Commander in the 4th Bn QOCH as a part of the 51st Highland Division en-route to Egypt.

He subsequently served as an Officer Commanding in the Battle of El Alamein where he was seriously wounded. On recovery he served again with 2nd Bn QOCH in Italy where he won a MC for his bravery. Col Charlie continued to serve after the war and commanded 5/6th Bn QOCH, a TA Bn. His elder brother was Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Locheil KT CVO TD, who was the 26th Chief of the Clan Cameron and a close family friend of the Royal Family. During his visit to 7 SCOTS he was given an update on the Bn by the Commanding Officer Lt Col Duncan MacKinnon and the opportunity to meet some of the staff at the Bn Headquarters in Perth. Col Charlie celebrated his 101st Birthday in September.





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RAISING THE NATIONS SPIRITS

In June 3 SCOTS Pipes and Drums raised the nations spirit by performing outdoors for children, residents and staff in primary schools, care homes and hospices across Fife, Kinross and Perthshire. This is the first time they have been able to perform since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in 2020. After a long year for all this was their way of thanking and showing support to care home staff and teachers for their work during COVID and their dedication to the community.





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RHQ SCOTS SO2 VETERANS AND CADETS

As part of Regimental Headquarters restructuring, Lt Col (Retd) Kevin Wood was appointed as SO2 Veterans and Cadets. Kev served in the Gordon Highlanders, The Royal Irish Regiment, The Highlanders and 4 SCOTS. His interests are mountain biking, trail running, walking, fly fishing and Aberdeen FC! Although way beyond his “patrol by date” he is enthusiastically committed to the growth of the Association. His primary task at present is to locate and reconnect SCOTS and HLDR veterans with the Regiment and thus the Association. Kev would like these veterans to contact him on kevin.wood398@mod.gov.uk



LOTHIAN AND BORDERS STANDARD

Kev MacWilliam recently visited the RHQ to collect the Standard for the Lothians Branch of the Association from Lt Col (Retd) Kev Wood, SO2 Veterans and Cadets. It has been a while since their paths had crossed but they were soon on the same frequency and had a great catch up. We are delighted that Kev has agreed to replace Doug Watson as the Chairman for the SCOTS Association Lothian Branch. Doug is about to work on his drill before assuming the appointment of CO 7 SCOTS in 2022!



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VETERANS STAYING ACTIVE

A day out mountain biking in Glen Affric by SCOTS Veterans. Mike Duffus, Allan Campbell, Colin Marshall, Roddy McPhee and Andrew Lingard and Rusty the dog.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2021

The association has requested a contingent of 20 who will march in London. Details regarding attendance and general administration will be passed to our branch chairmen as soon as they are known. If you would like to attend, please contact your nearest branch or SO2 Veterans and Cadets at RHQ.

Where SCOTS veterans are representing the Association at other locations on Remembrance Sunday, they are requested to inform RHQ.

ASSOCIATION REUNION

The first Association reunion will take place in Perth on Sat 27 Nov 21 at the Royal George Hotel. Details regarding how you register your attendance can be obtained through your nearest branch.

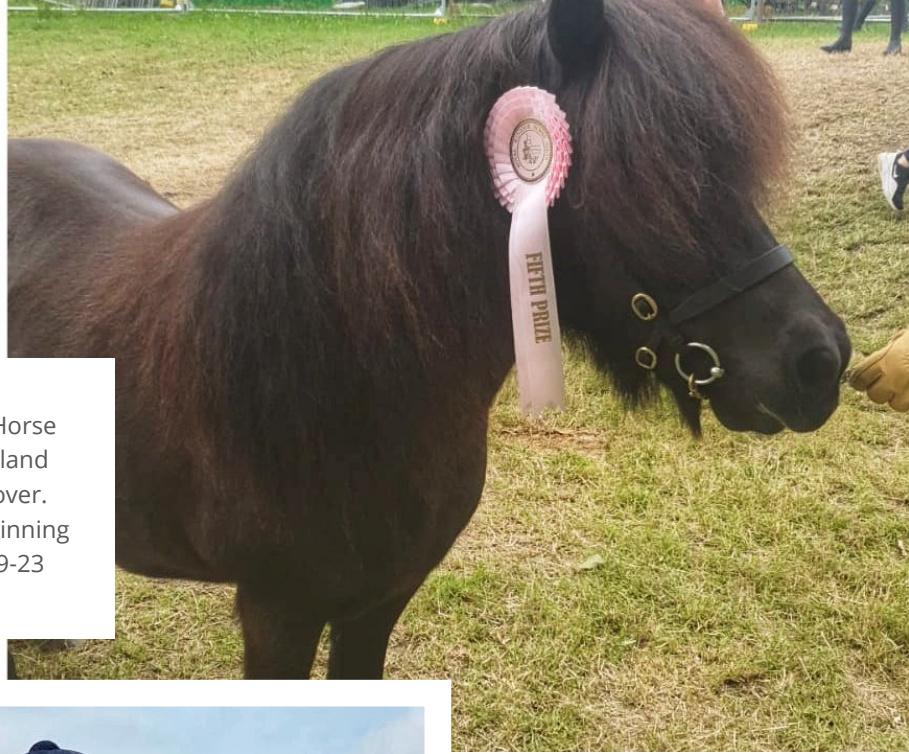


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CRUACHAN AT THE ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW

Our mascot, Cpl Cruachan IV, and his companion Nightcap recently took part in the Royal Windsor Horse Show with Cruachan winning 5th place in the Shetland Stallion, Mare or Gelding in hand 4 years old and over. Nightcap however kept Cruachan on his toes by winning 1st prize in the ridden pony in saddle age group 19-23 and 3rd place in overall age groups.





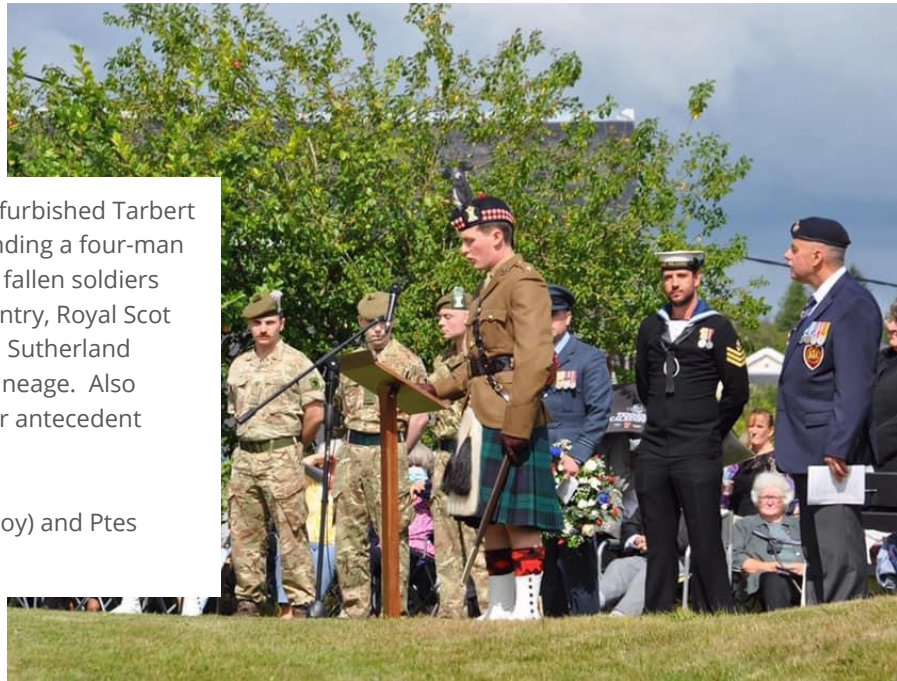
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REDEDICATION OF THE TARBERT MEMORIAL - SAT 7 AUG 21

The Regiment supported the rededication of the refurbished Tarbert memorial on the 7th August 2021 with 6 SCOTS sending a four-man contingent to the ceremony. Most of the names of fallen soldiers on the memorial were from the Highland Light Infantry, Royal Scot Fusiliers and the Royal Scots with some Argyll's and Sutherland Highlanders, all of which sit within our regimental lineage. Also in attendance was representation from some of our antecedent associations.

The 6 SCOTS contingent included 2Lt Hackland (A Coy) and Ptes Hutcheson, McEwan and Dominick all from C Coy.





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REGIMENTAL TRUST

The Regimental Trust was set up in 2006 with the purpose of providing welfare and moral support to SCOTS serving soldiers, veterans and their families. Since the Trust has provided grants to battalions, individuals and families in excess of £2.5 million. The income for the Trust comes solely from the soldiers and officers who sign up to the Service Days Pay Giving Scheme.

The scale and variety of support is vast. Serving soldiers receive grants to participate in Adventurous Training, sporting events, social functions and to purchase regimental items of clothing and equipment. Veterans receive a wide range of welfare, benevolence and financial support when in time of need. For example, coping with sudden bereavements, housing difficulties and education and training for future employment.

We are here for older veterans and families when they find themselves lonely or isolated.

REGIMENTAL TRUST WELFARE GRANT

How to Apply for Regimental Welfare Funds:

If you are in need of financial support, then the Association can help. The process is straight forward. If you find yourself in a position where financial support is required, in the first instance get in touch with SSAFA or Poppyscotland. For those South of the border it is SSAFA or The Royal British Legion. They will allocate a caseworker who will look at your need and if warranted will write a report which is sent to RHQ SCOTS for consideration. The welfare team at RHQ SCOTS will look at the case and how best to support the application.



- Find yourself in need of financial support
- Approach SSAFA/Poppyscotland/TRBL

- Case worker will be assigned
- Home / telephone interview conducted
- Report written

- Caseworker report sent to RHQ SCOTS
- Assessment of financial need
- Grant awarded



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REGIMENTAL CHAPLAIN

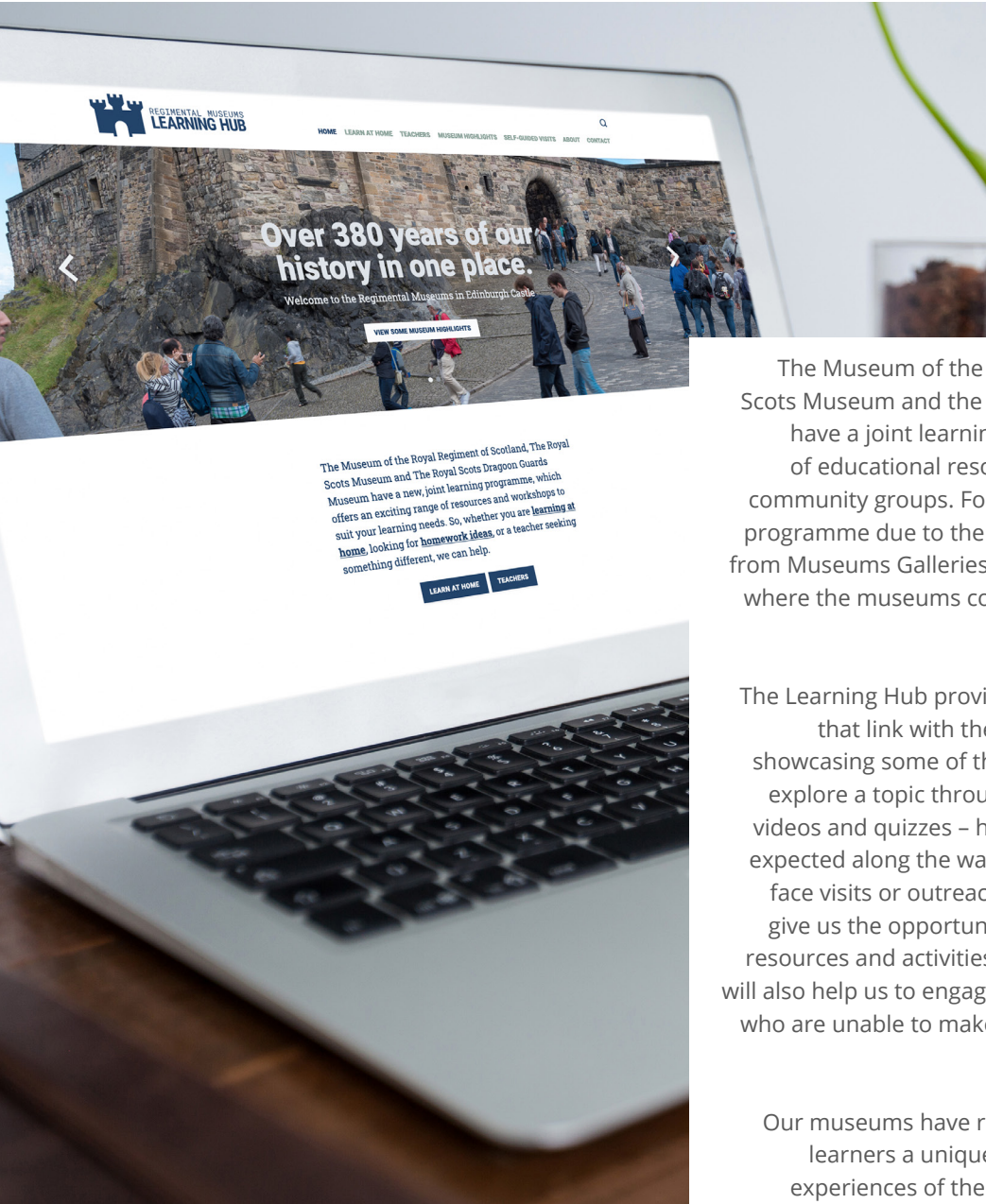
The Reverend Neil Gardner MA BD was born and brought up in Dunbar, East Lothian and attended the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh. He was ordained and introduced to The Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1991 and subsequently served as chaplain to The Scots Guards and The Black Watch among others in Germany, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, Surrey and Hampshire. He left the Army in 1998 and was inducted as parish minister of Alyth, Perthshire before becoming minister of Canongate Kirk, the Kirk of Holyroodhouse and of Edinburgh Castle in 2006. Canongate Kirk is the regimental church and it also has links with The Scots Guards and The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The Kirk is also affiliated to HMS Queen Elizabeth and holds the roll of honour of 603 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force. Neil Gardner is a Domestic Chaplain to HM The Queen in Scotland and Dean of the Order of St John in Scotland.





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MUSEUM LEARNING HUB

The Museum of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Royal Scots Museum and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Museum have a joint learning programme which provides a range of educational resources and workshops for schools and community groups. Following the suspension of the learning programme due to the recent pandemic, funding was sought from Museums Galleries Scotland to create an online platform where the museums could re-engage with schools and home learners.

The Learning Hub provides a variety of topic-based resources that link with the Curriculum for Excellence, while also showcasing some of the museums' collections. Learners can explore a topic through objects, personal stories, activities, videos and quizzes – hopefully learning a bit more than they expected along the way! When we're able to arrange face-to-face visits or outreach sessions again, the learning hub will give us the opportunity to provide teachers with additional resources and activities, as well as bespoke learning offers. It will also help us to engage with schools and community groups who are unable to make a visit to the museums or are too far away for an outreach session.

Our museums have rich and diverse collections which offer learners a unique insight into their studies through the experiences of the people who joined the three different regiments. Going forward, the Learning Hub will be an invaluable tool to not only revitalise our learning programme, but to expand the audience of the museums to schools and community groups across Scotland and beyond.



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ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM OPENING

The sun shone on Stirling Castle on 29 June 2021 for HM The Queen's visit to open the newly refurbished Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum. Brigadier Bruce Russell, Chairman of Trustees, made Her Majesty smile when he quipped that she was the longest serving Argyll as she had been appointed Colonel-in-Chief in 1947, graciously continuing as Royal Colonel on the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006. Her Majesty was very impressed with the new Museum – a fitting successor - credit must go to Colonel A K Miller, who master-minded the project. Members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Association gathered from branches all over the United Kingdom to greet their Royal Colonel; and some 95 "Glengarries" followed her car to the drawbridge to give "Three Cheers for Her Majesty!" as she left.





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ACCESS TO EDINBURGH CASTLE

HES is a charity with over 300 Properties in Care (PiCs), the majority of which are free to everyone and accessible throughout the year. Around 75 PiCs are managed through opening hours and admissions charges; the foremost of which is Edinburgh Castle.

Since the limited reopening of Edinburgh Castle as a tourist venue, access has been restricted to online ticketing purchased through the HES website. HES Ticketing has now added the MOD 90 to the list of ticket types on the booking website.

This means that current members of the British Armed Forces can once again receive free entry to Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Fort George. This is done by completing an online booking using HM Forces from the list of ticket types. Serving personnel will need to bring a valid MOD 90 card and their online ticket when they arrive on site. Please note free entry only applies to the Serving Personnel.



REGIMENTAL TWEED

Regimental Tweed is available from RHQ at £35 a metre.

SAVE THE DATE

- Thu 7 Oct 21 - Officers Dinner Night
- Sun 14 Nov 21 - Remembrance Sunday
- Thu 18 Nov 21 - Regimental Boxing - The Oriam, Edinburgh
- Sat 27 Nov 21 - Association Reunion - Royal George Hotel Perth
- Spring/Summer 2022 – Afghanistan Memorial Church Service